## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

## **Listing of Claims:**

1	1. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method of facilitating a
2	distributed search for a procurement request, comprising:
3	receiving the procurement request from a user, wherein the procurement
4	request is subject to organizational procurement controls, and wherein the
5	procurement request involves requesting goods and/or services;
6	requesting a remote supplier to conduct a remote search to satisfy the
7	procurement request, wherein the remote supplier is an external supplier and/or
8	vendor who is located outside of the organization to which the user belongs, and
9	wherein the request identifies to the remote supplier a context in which to execute
10	the remote search;
11	initiating a local search of a local information source;
12	receiving results of the remote search;
13	filtering results of the remote search by applying the organizational
14	procurement controls to the results of the remote search, wherein the
15	organizational procurement controls include at least one of, an upper limit on a
16	price, an upper limit on a quantity, a prohibition against a given supplier, a limit to
17	a given brand, a limit to a given model, a limit on a delivery option, and a limit on
18	payment terms, and wherein the remote information source comprises an
19	electronic marketplace, whereby the organizational procurement controls can be
20	applied to results of the remote search which is performed by the remote supplier;
21	merging said remote search results with results of the local search; and

22	presenting said merged search results to the user.
1	2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2	filtering said remote search results with a set of local rules.
1	3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein said filtering comprises
2	editing said remote search results according to a set of rules regarding information
3	that may be presented to the user.
1	4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2	selecting said remote information source from multiple information
3	sources.
1	5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said remote search is
2	conducted without the user being connected to the remote information source.
1	6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the remote information
2	source employs a user interface different from a user interface employed by the
3	local information source.
1	7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said presenting comprises
2	displaying said merged search results with the user interface employed by the
3	local information source.
1	8 (Canceled)
1	9. (Currently amended) The method of elaim 8claim 1, wherein said
2 '	context comprises an identity of the user.

1	10. (Currently amended) The method of elaim 8 claim 1, wherein said
2	context comprises an identity of an organization operating the local information
3	source.
1	11. (Currently amended) The method of elaim 8 claim 1, wherein said
2	context comprises a language.
1	12 (Canceled).
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1	13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said remote search and said
2	local search are performed at least partially in parallel.
1	14. (Currently amended) A computer readable storage medium storing
2	instructions that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform a
3	computer-implemented method of for facilitating a distributed search for a
4	procurement request, the method comprising:
5	receiving the procurement request from a user, wherein the procurement
6	request is subject to organizational procurement controls, and wherein the
7	procurement request involves requesting goods and/or services;
8	requesting a remote supplier to conduct a remote search to satisfy the
9	procurement request, wherein the remote supplier is an external supplier and/or
10	vendor who is located outside of the organization to which the user belongs, and
11	wherein the request identifies to the remote supplier a context in which to execute
12	the remote search;
13	initiating a local search of a local information source;
14	receiving results of the remote search;
15	filtering results of the remote search by applying the organizational
16	procurement controls to the results of the remote search, wherein the

organizational procurement controls include at least one of, an upper limit on a	
price, an upper limit on a quantity, a prohibition against a given supplier, a limit to	
a given brand, a limit to a given model, a limit on a delivery option, and a limit on	
payment terms, and wherein the remote information source comprises an	
electronic marketplace, whereby the organizational procurement controls can be	
applied to results of the remote search which is performed by the remote supplier;	
merging said remote search results with results of the local search; and	
presenting said merged search results to the user.	

15. (Currently amended) A method of conducting a distributed electronic search for a procurement request concerning a desired procurement item, wherein the procurement request is subject to organizational procurement controls, and wherein the procurement request involves requesting goods and/or services, comprising:

receiving from a user a description of an item the user desires to procure; issuing a request to a remote supplier to conduct a first search for items matching said description, without the user connecting to the remote procurement information source, wherein the remote supplier is an external supplier and/or vendor who is located outside of the organization to which the user belongs, and wherein said issuing comprises providing the remote procurement information source with information specifying a context in which to execute the requested search;

providing the remote procurement information source with contextual information for said first search;

performing a second search of a local procurement system for items matching said description;

receiving a first set of results responsive to said first search;

19	filtering said first set of results by applying the organizational procurement
20	controls to the first set of results of the remote search, wherein the organizational
21	procurement controls include at least one of, an upper limit on a price, an upper
22	limit on a quantity, a prohibition against a given supplier, a limit to a given brand,
23	a limit to a given model, a limit on a delivery option, and a limit on payment
24	terms, and wherein the remote information source comprises an electronic
25	marketplace, whereby the organizational procurement controls can be applied to
26	the first set of results of the remote search which is performed by the remote
27	supplier; and
28	presenting to the user, through a single interface, said first set of results
29	and a second set of results responsive to said second search.
1	16. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising:
2	authenticating one or more of the user and the local procurement
3	information system to the remote procurement information source.
1	17. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising:
2	selecting the remote procurement information source from a set of
3	procurement information sources.
1	18 (Canceled)
1	19. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein said filtering comprises
2	removing from said first set of results any items that violate the procurement
3	rules.
1	20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the procurement rules are

designed to restrict items that may be procured by the user.

21. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein said first search and said second search are performed at least partially in parallel.

22. (Currently amended) A computer readable storage medium storing instructions that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform a method of for conducting a distributed electronic search for a procurement request concerning a desired procurement item, wherein the procurement request is subject to organizational procurement controls, and wherein the procurement request involves requesting goods and/or services, the method comprising: receiving from a user a description of an item the user desires to procure;

issuing a request to a remote supplier to conduct a first search for items matching said description, without the user connecting to the remote procurement information source, wherein the remote supplier is an external supplier and/or vendor who is located outside of the organization to which the user belongs;

providing the remote procurement information source with contextual information for said first search;

performing a second search of a local procurement system for items matching said description;

receiving a first set of results responsive to said first search;

filtering said first set of results by applying the organizational procurement controls to the first set of results of the remote search, wherein the organizational procurement controls include at least one of, an upper limit on a price, an upper limit on a quantity, a prohibition against a given supplier, a limit to a given brand, a limit to a given model, a limit on a delivery option, and a limit on payment terms, and wherein the remote information source comprises an electronic marketplace, whereby the organizational procurement controls can be applied to the first set of results of the remote search which is performed by the remote supplier; and

26	presenting to the user, through a single interface, said first set of results
27	and a second set of results responsive to said second search.
1	23. (Currently amended) A system for facilitating a distributed search for
2	information for a procurement request, wherein the procurement request is subject
3	to organizational procurement controls, and wherein the procurement request
4	involves requesting goods and/or services, comprising:
5	a local information source configured to provide information to local users
6	through a first user interface;
7	a communication module configured to enable said local information

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a communication module configured to enable said local information source to send contextual information for a search to communicate with a remote supplier, wherein the remote supplier is configured to provide information to users through a second user interface different from the first user interface, and wherein the remote supplier is an external supplier and/or vendor who is located outside of the organization to which the user belongs;

a set of rules regarding information that may be displayed to a first local user; and

a processor configured to initiate, in response to a request from the first local user:

a remote search of the remote information source; and

a local search of said local information source;

wherein results of said remote search are filtered by applying the organizational procurement controls to the results of the remote search, wherein the organizational procurement controls include at least one of, an upper limit on a price, an upper limit on a quantity, a prohibition against a given supplier, a limit to a given brand, a limit to a given model, a limit on a delivery option, and a limit on payment terms, and wherein the remote information source comprises an electronic marketplace, whereby the organizational procurement controls can be

- 26 applied to results of the remote search which is performed by the remote supplier and then merged with results of said local search for display to the first local user 27 through the first user interface. 28
- 24. (Original) The system of claim 23, further comprising: 1 authentication means for authenticating one or more of the system and the 2 3 first local user to the remote information source.
- 25. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein said remote search and 1 2 said local search are performed in parallel.

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- 26. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the organizational procurement controls include at least one of, an upper limit on a price, an upper limit on a quantity, a prohibition against a given supplier, a limit to a given brand, a limit to a given model, a limit on a delivery option, and a limit on payment terms.
- 27. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the organizational procurement controls include at least one of, an upper limit on a price, an upper 3 limit on a quantity, a prohibition against a given supplier, a limit to a given brand, a limit to a given model, a limit on a delivery option, and a limit on payment terms.
- 1 28. (New) The system of claim 23, wherein the organizational procurement controls include at least one of, an upper limit on a price, an upper 2 3 limit on a quantity, a prohibition against a given supplier, a limit to a given brand, a limit to a given model, a limit on a delivery option, and a limit on payment 4 5 terms.